

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/714,237

Examiner

Melvin A. Cartagena

Applicant(s)

MASUDA, MASATOSHI

Art Unit

3754

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to phone interview conducted on March 16, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,3,5-22 and 24-27.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)                                 |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>3172006</u> . |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>2032006</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                              | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance                                   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.  |

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Katsushiro Arai on March 17, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows: claim 9 and claim 19 have been amended to read as follows:

9. A fluid-storing container comprising:

- an inner container for storing a fluid, which is flexible;
- an outer container in which the inner container is placed;
- a coupling member having a hollow portion having a through-hole as a fluid passage;
- a flange portion provided at an upper end of the hollow portion;
- a first connecting portion provided at a lower end of the hollow portion and adapted to be connected with an opening portion of an inner container;
- a second connecting portion provided in the vicinity of the flange portion and adapted to be connected with an opening portion of an outer container;
- at least one annular elastic fin provided between the first connecting portion and the second connecting portion, said annular elastic fin extending outward and downward, wherein an edge of the fin is adapted to be in contact with an inner wall of the opening portion of the outer container, and

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at least one groove as an air passage formed and extending through the flange portion and the second connecting portion, said groove remaining open when the opening portion of the outer container is connected with the second connecting portion;

the coupling structure coupling the inner container and the outer container, herein an opening portion of the inner container is connected with the first connecting portion, an opening portion of the outer container is connected with the second connecting portion, and the edge of the fin is in contact with an inner wall of the opening portion of the outer container;

a through-bore closing disk which is placed on top of the flange portion, wherein the through-bore closing disk closes the through-bore without closing the hollow of the hollow portion; and

a nozzle portion which is secured to the opening portion of the outer container, between which the flange portion and the through-bore closing disk are sandwiched, wherein the fluid stored in the inner container is dispensed from a discharge port of the nozzle portion through the hollow of the hollow portion.

19 A fluid-storing container comprising:

an external container on top of which an opening portion is formed;

an internal container which comprises a flexible bag body having an opening portion and which can be housed inside said external container;

a nearly cylinder-shaped coupling material disposed at the opening portion of said internal container, which enables a fluid stored inside said internal container to be discharged outside via the opening portion of said external container and forms an internal space shielded from the outside between said internal container and said external container by fixing the

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opening portion of said internal container in the vicinity of the opening portion of said external container; and

a fluid discharge pump for discharging the fluid stored inside said internal container from a nozzle head disposed over said external container by pressing said nozzle head in an axial direction of the fluid discharge pump, wherein the fluid discharge pump and the coupling material is disposed co-axially,

wherein said coupling material comprises a runoff prevention mechanism comprising;  
at least one flexible leak proof fin and a groove portion which prevents the fluid from flowing out from said internal space to the outside and enables air to flow into said internal space from the outside.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melvin A. Cartagena whose telephone number is (571) 272-4924. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30AM to 4:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Y. Mar can be reached on (571) 272-4906. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MAC 3/17/06  
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